The most important reason for the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) is_____?

Legend:
- ■ To set policy for localities
- ■ To inform and drive future policy, resourcing, funding
- ■ To inform the public
- ■ To satisfy Federal requirements

17%

83%

0% for: inform the public & satisfy Federal requirements

Comments

- The SCIP gives us a target to aim at. That might be a policy/resource target for the SIEC and GOV to work toward, or simply a high level view of the consensus priorities for interoperable communications that localities/regions/STARS/VDEM/Cache/etc. can aim at. If I'm building a radio system, what are the top 5 interoperability goals I should set? The SCIP should help me answer this question. If we're all building toward and aiming at the same target, there's a much better chance we'll be able to talk, despite not having a detailed statewide technical plan that gets down in the weeds.
- The opportunity to align policy and funding of localities to those of the Commonwealth are critical in the implementation of any successful statewide program.
- This document should provide guidance to localities and drive support that delivers adequate resourcing and funding
- A well developed plan is a tool for effective lobbying. Especially when we're all speaking with the same voice and message.
- In general. all of the above as well as inform elected officials to garner support.
- It is very important to have a set foundation for future workshops such as these.

If a strategy is a leadership document that drives goals and objectives, and a plan is a management document that drives how to meet goals and objectives—should the SCIP be a strategy or a plan?
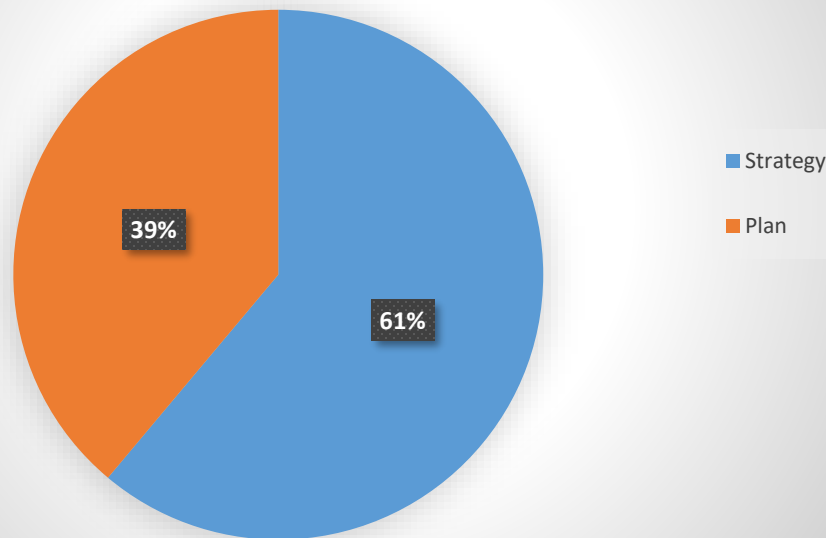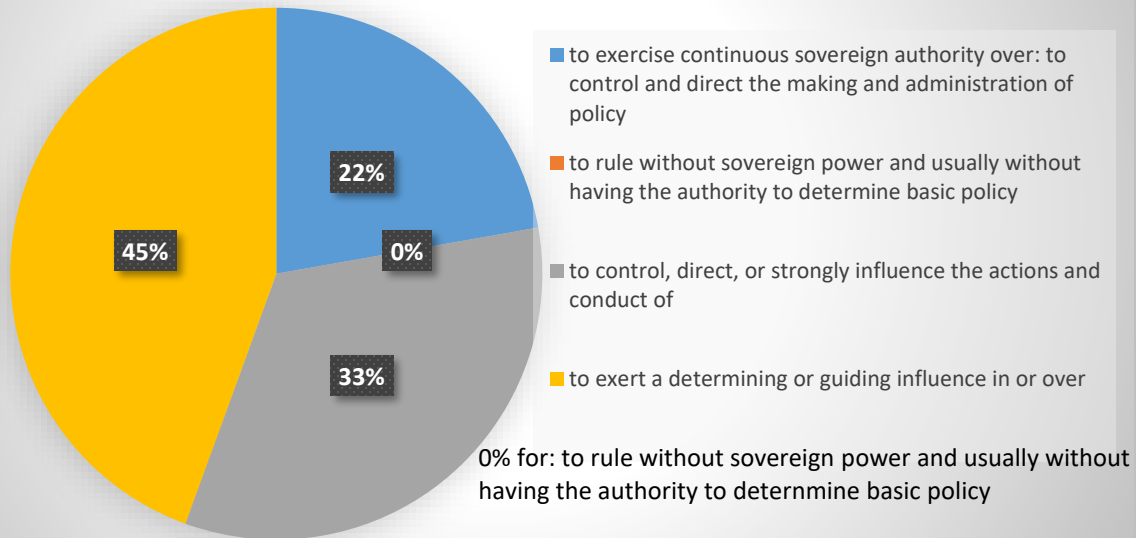

Comments

- I tend to lean towards "Plan," but I think when we plan too much at a high/statewide level, we spin our wheels wondering why statewide plans struggle and then try to will people into compliance. Instead, maybe we need to (see above question) set the targets up and let different regions, system builders, and stakeholders build toward those end-states. After all, isn't that the point of "interoperable?" You can use standards (procedures, training, technologies, governance) to arrive via different roads at a common destination and communicate.
- Same comments as above
- Lean towards towards a mix of both. This effort may be more of strategy as there has been some time in updates. Future, and potential sub elements, efforts may include more planning areas to drive specifics.
- Strategy is good for planning, ensuring that you have the right personnel in the same group. This can transition into management executing the plan. It is really difficult to separate strategy and plan as they go hand in hand.
- I believe it is a combination of both.
- I think it'll be difficult to put a management document into place at this level, unless associated funding will be provided (avoiding unfunded state mandates). There are too many variables to consider from a resource perspective to force a plan into place, at the locality level. I think goals and objectives to be met can then be discussed at the regional levels, and pushed into a management plan that is funded, reasonably attainable, and realistic in the results desired. Without funding sources, it becomes the project/initiative that everyone puts a lot of time and effort into, but never really finishes anything.

The SCIP needs a:

50%   50%

- Complete overhaul
- Update
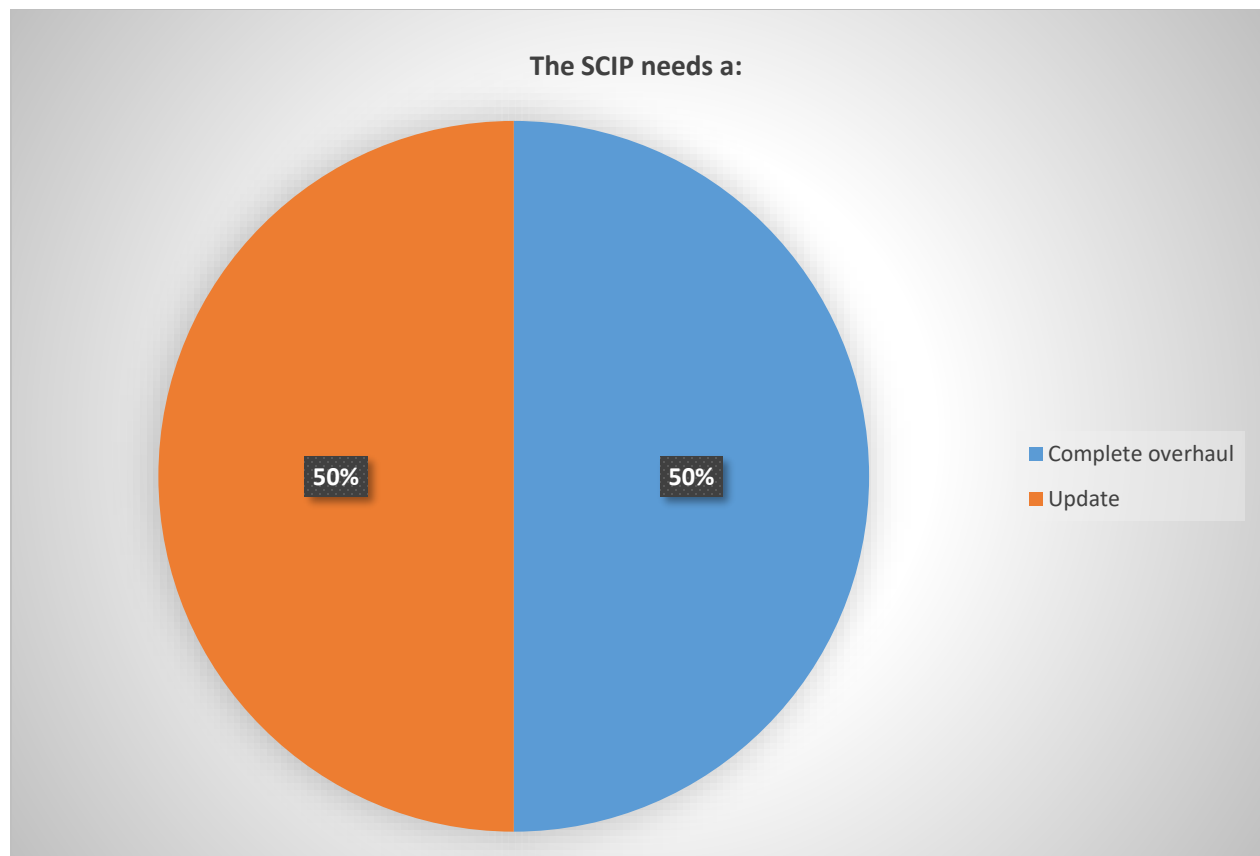
Comments

- It's time. Revision is fine if it's kept up with. We failed, so this is our lot.
- The core and spirt of the SCIP are relevant. May need to make it current in wording and programs.
- Complete overhaul as time has elapsed since the last update as well as to address technological changes.
- The plan looks fine but may need to be revised. A complete overhaul is not necessary.
- I selected a complete overhaul; however, its probably more appropriate for a significant update

The following are definitions of the word "Govern" from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Please choose the one that you think best describes the proper approach to State communications and interoperability governance.

- to exercise continuous sovereign authority over: to control and direct the making and administration of policy
- to rule without sovereign power and usually without having the authority to determine basic policy
- to control, direct, or strongly influence the actions and conduct of
- to exert a determining or guiding influence in or over

22% 0% 33% 45%

0% for: to rule without sovereign power and usually without having the authority to deternmine basic policy

- I'm not sure SIEC or even GOV has enough direct authority to really control much here, or if it's even worth trying to govern that way in this case. That said, I think we can balance not portraying a heavy hand (which we cannot back up anyway...) with communicating with confidence and authority, which heads me in the direction of answer number 3. The "control" or "influence" comes from our "authority" as subject-matter experts. Our "authority" is based on trust.
- Interopable communications is not a technical problem. It is a mindset. It sounds harsh, but asking people to play by the rules and follow best practices has not solved the problem. Strict governance with consequences are where we are at today.
- None
- The first best suits the definition on govern. There has to be guidelines outlined for others to follow. The push and pull flow is critical for this to work.
- Again, this goes back to comments made above. Without solid and sustainable funding sources (it all begins and ends with money), controlling, directing or even influencing the actions and conduct of any endeavor makes that endeavor more apt to be unattainable.

Focused work groups (committees) designed to solve a specific problem are effective governance bodies
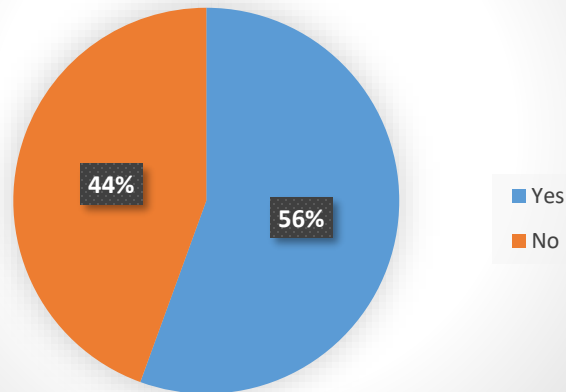
28%

72%

■ True

■ False
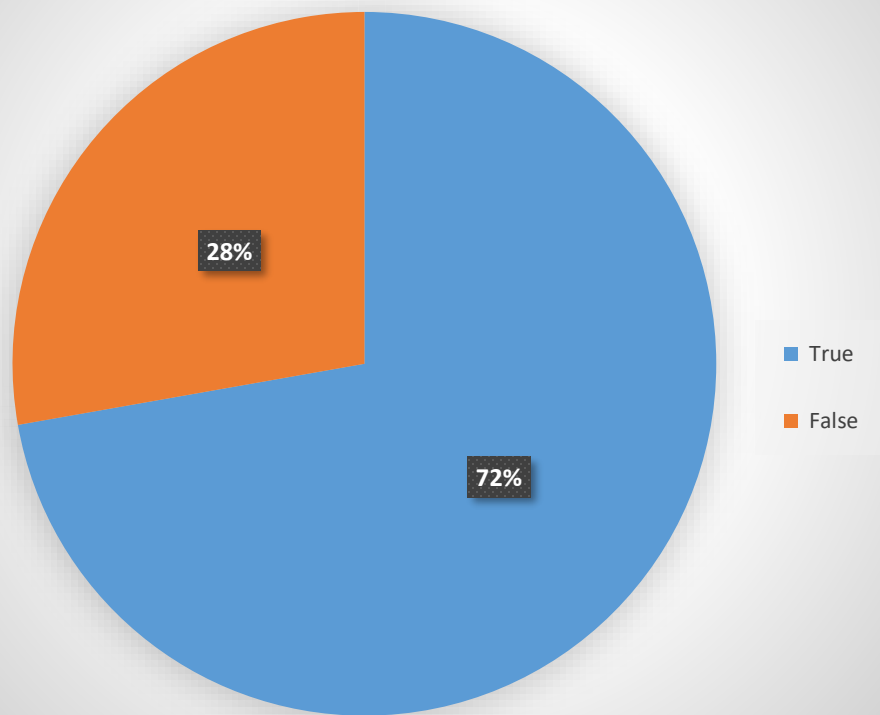
Comments

- As long as their work products are not dismissed.
- Workgroups and committees, in my mind, come together for specific, task-based work. They form, operate, achieve, and stand down. They ought to be spawned from a higher-level, permanent(ish) governing body.
- They are effective at getting things done, but not necessarily governance. There is a difference between doing and governing. They are, however, infinitely superior to standing committees.
- Provided the larger audience respects the outcome and follows the recommendations.
- As long as there is focus and clear direction.
- Focused Work Groups help with obtaining more information which in turn can be fed to the Standing Committee.
- Focused work groups can influence governance.
- Provided that the recommendations of the committees have common consensus from the larger group.

Standing Committees are effective governance bodies

- True
- False

89%
11%
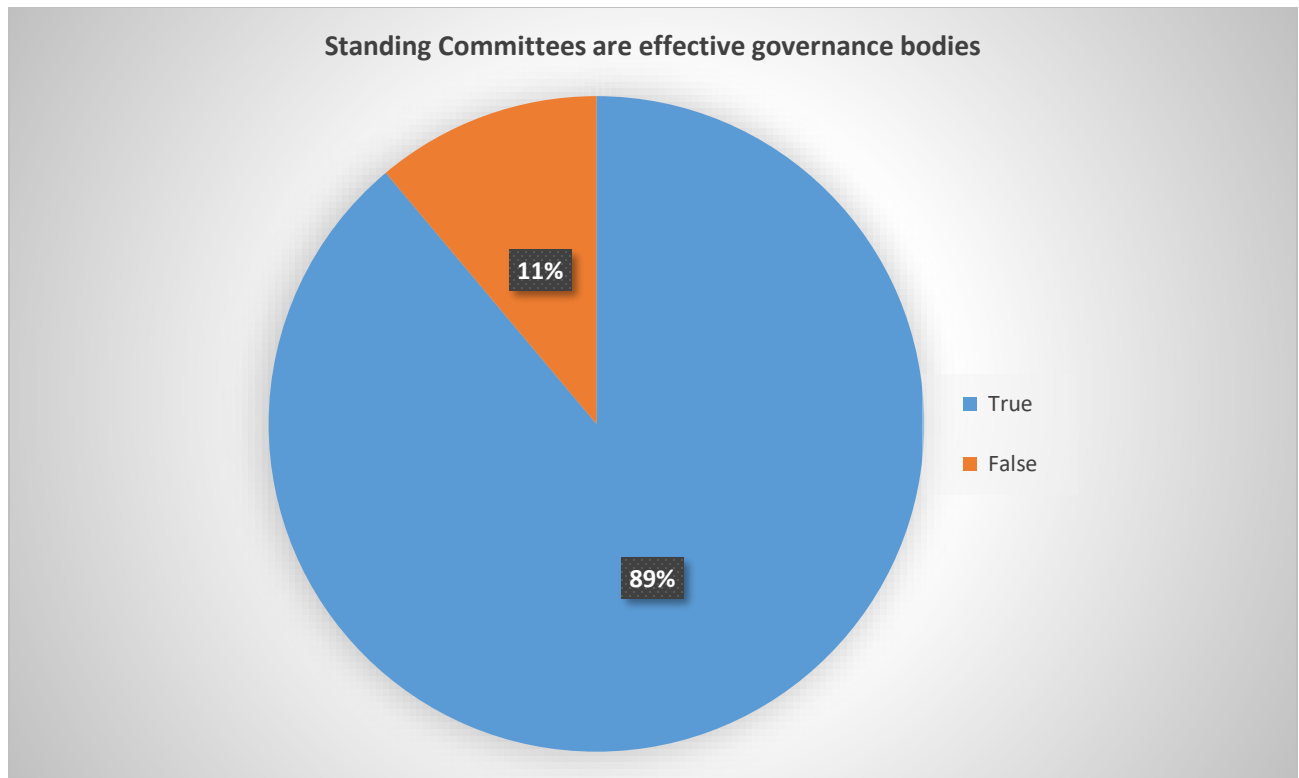
Comments

- If I recall, we pass through DHS' P25 requirement for grant-funded LMR technology, so that qualifies. STARS policies are certainly state-wide, but only for statewide agencies. Fun with words. I think if you dig into OEMS and the various health districts, there's a commonality among MCI communications procedures, though I'm not sure that's governed statewide. Here's the thing: We (most of us?) just don't know. There's no "home" for these things. Much like 9-1-1, public safety communications is, in a way, homeless. It's a "service" of various public safety disciplines (law, fire, ems, corrections, emergency management, even 9-1-1/ECC). As such, it's a lot like data/computing....it hasn't achieved its own external discipline status, VITA notwithstanding. TL;DR - We need to be/build the clearinghouse on comms
- Usually best practices that local governments and agencies should follow
- Not clear ones
- This needs to be inventoried to confirm if any exist that are clearly statewide.
- The five Cache teams have to continue to train per the SCIP.
- There are regulations associated with EMS to hospital communication requirements
- Not that I'm aware of; however, finding any information related to any public safety initiatives is difficult, given the need for discretion and security, and as such, localities suffer from being out of the loop of any information, not realizing they're out of the loop.

Does Virginia have any state-wide (mandated) Public Safety Communication Standard Operating Procedures, technology requirements, training/exercise requirements, or usage requirements?

Legend: Yes (blue), No (orange). Yes = 56%, No = 44%

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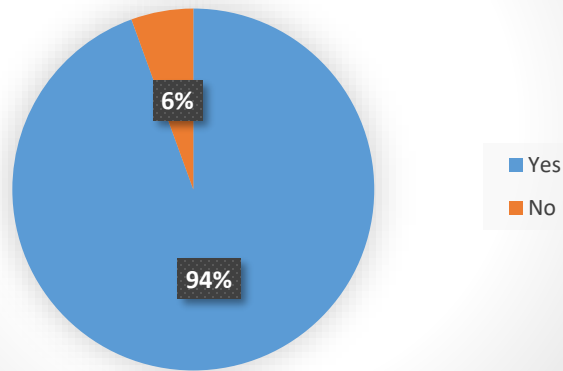
- Eventually, yes. This is a big ship to turn and frankly it doesn't have a full hull yet.
- State mandates, particularly those unfunded, have a lengthy history in Virginia. Programs that produce success stories attract more followers. The creation of a strong plan, and leadership through example will put Virginia on a path of improved interoperable communications and cooperation.
- as they effect delivery of repeatable practices, protocols, and performance for the safety of life and property.   Any cost of state mandated procedures and requirements must be borne by the state.

Yes. One that covers a broad range of operations / systems.

Is it important to incoporate NIMS/ICS doctrine and practices into public safety communications procedures, training/exercises, and usage?

Yes
No

0% no

100%
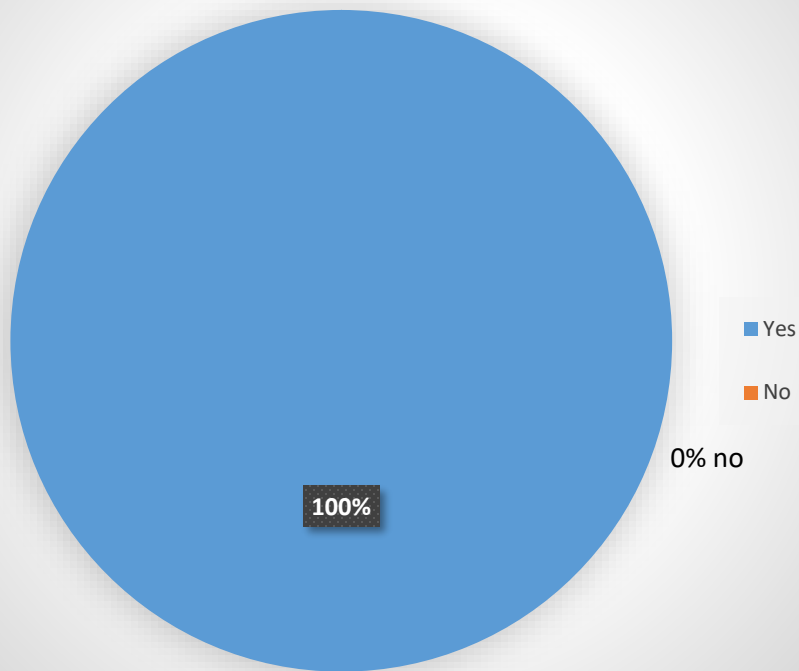
Comments

- ABSOLUTELY!! Comms works best (or at all) when following ICS!
- The work that has already been put in to develop NIMS/ICS, and the success stories from the utilization of this framework is a clear indicator that it should be put to use in most, if not all, areas of public safety communications. The proverbial no need to reinvent the wheel could not be more true than in this example.
- it is absolute
- It is a standards based system that works. We're all playing by the same rules and expectations can be managed.
- Yes from many angles.

Will public safety broad band replace LMR for mission critical communications in the next 20 years?


Yes 11%
No 89%
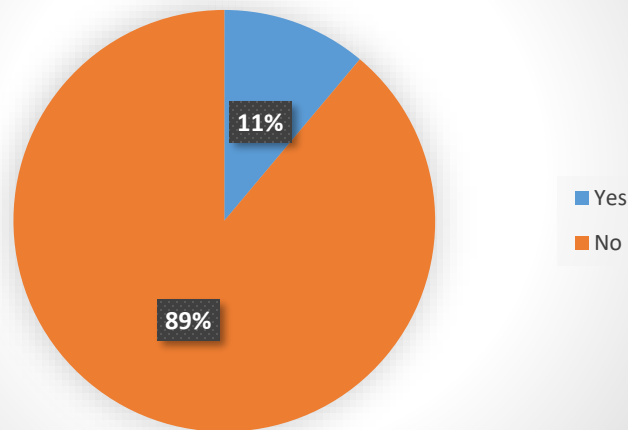
Comments

- Close, but maybe not 20? In 1999, LMR and public safety data looked a lot like today... We had conventional and trunked radios, GPRS or other packet data serving MDCs, some light integration and cross-population of technologies but lower convergence... Today's feeds, speeds, and features are bigger, faster and better, but the model is the same. What we do not would look very familiar to a 1999 practitioner. Given that, I offer that 2039 will look familiar to 2019 responders. Mission-critical technologies tend to converge, not supplant/replace and this happens over multiple cycles, but generational cycles are faster than they were 20 years ago. I believe 20 years is a reasonable window for substantial convergence....if we choose it.
TL;DR - Yes if we choose wisely, aim high, and work hard!

- The starting point of the commercial networks and the profit motivation will slow the evolution of the LTE/Broadband networks. The current investment occurring in LMR across the Commonwealth is irrefutable evidence of the commitment to LMR for the foreseeable future. LMR and broadband will continue to compliment one another for some time.
- It is possible if the cellular and infrastructure are hardened and made to meet 5-9's and provide uninterruptible access to public safety
- It will converge
- It will likely take longer to totally replace it, but it will make strong shifts by then.
- There will always be some form off tactical radios comms that will occur off network or line of site. SWAT mission, fire ground ops. Wide area comms may transition to a broadband PTT technology.
- Not entirely but there will be components embedded into
- This topic is very debatable. I would say that it will exist next to LMR as an enhancement.
- This is a loaded question. Broadband will coexist with LMR.
- No. Until public safety broadband can harden their systems to public safety grade, relying on broadband for primary communications at the local level may be at a higher risk, because each locality (nor the state!) cannot control what the private sector does.

Will public safety broadband ever replace LMR for mission critical communications?

44% Yes
56% No
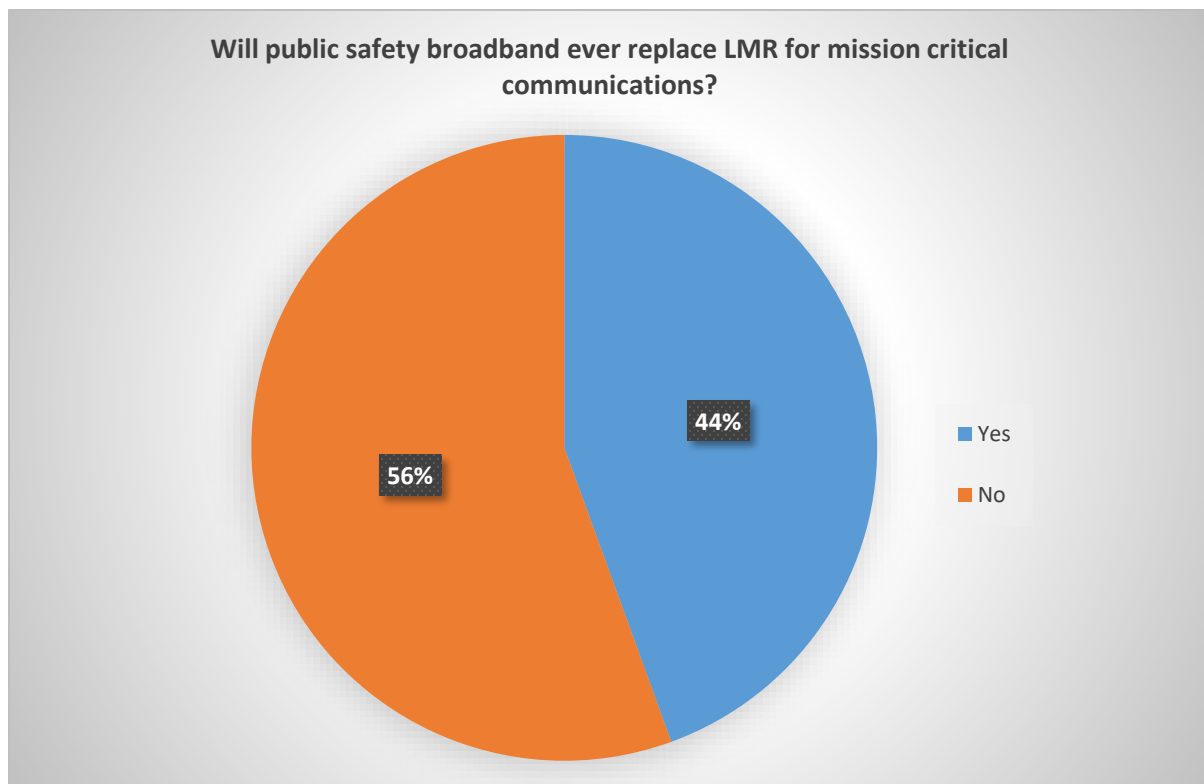
Comments

- The features and functionality that broadband has the capability to provide will likely lead to a demand from public safety which LMR will not meet, at some point in the future.

- The next generations will see to that.
- I don't think any current provider has the bandwith and money to build a network (tower, NOC, etc) that can replicate the coverage and mission critical nature public safety demands.
- Not entirely
- Not in my life time.
- Another loaded question. Coexistence with LMR.
- It is possible, but much more work has to be done to get to this point; having a single vendor provide public safety broadband is not how to get there. There has to be standards put into place, like the P25 standards, that allow multiple vendors to compete for the business; just like with P25 standards, there are challenges in the interpretation of the standards and how they're applied.

The SCIP should guide development of locality grant requests

- AGREE
- DISAGREE

6%

94%
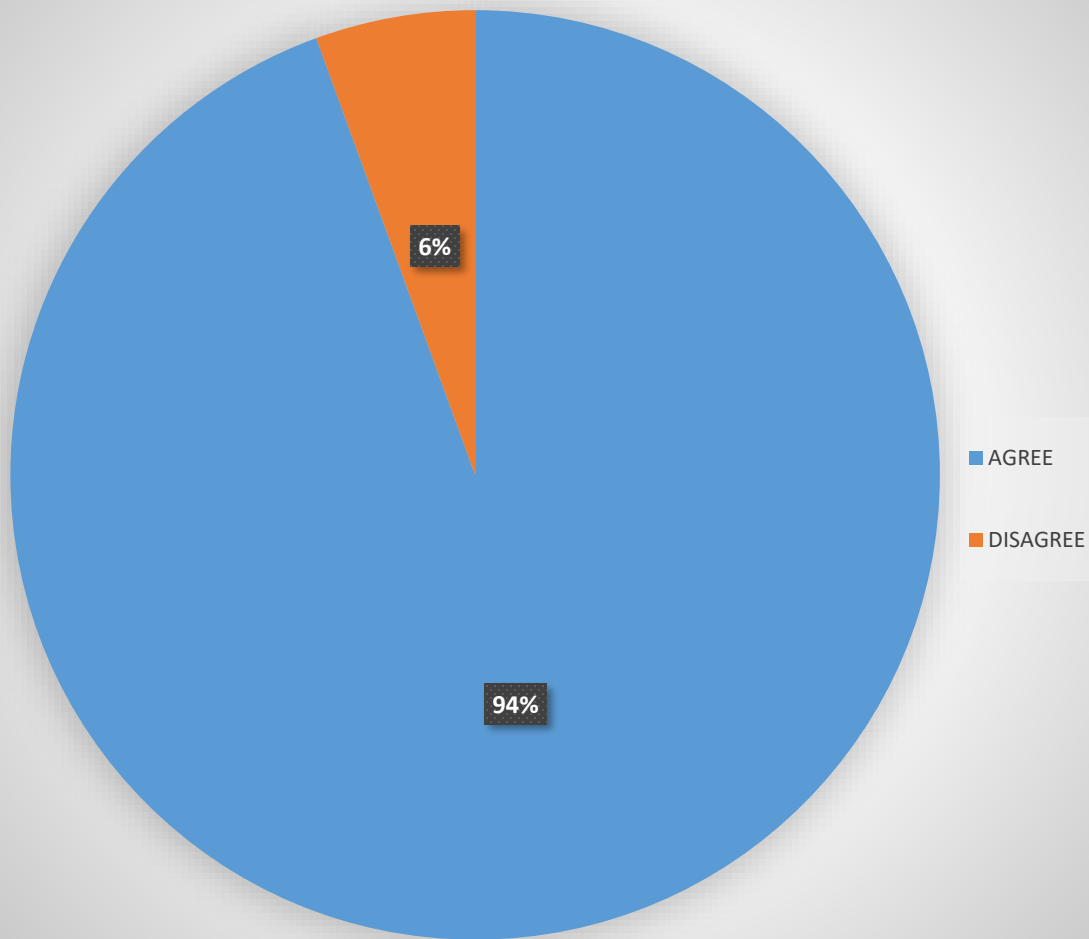
Comments

- Yes!!! Throwing dollars are disjointed requests that don't tie to a SCIP does not achieve any sort of policy goal. Money is our only lever. We have to tie it to the machine that makes our widgets.

- We should get away from providing grants to local/state entities that don't think regionally. Life cycle of infrastructure equipment of subscriber radios should be part of an operating budget. Grants are to solve regional problems or pay for unfunded mandates.
- Grants, local and state, should align with the SCIP.
- I agree because it help them through the process.
- I definitely do. This helps our state and local funding requests resonate at the well.
- It's a good starting place and should be considered.
- Assuming currency, components of it should guide.
- I definitely do not agree with this. I have seen too many skewed grants go through simply because of "the loudest voice" and ends up leaving other localities who may have a higher need get passed by.
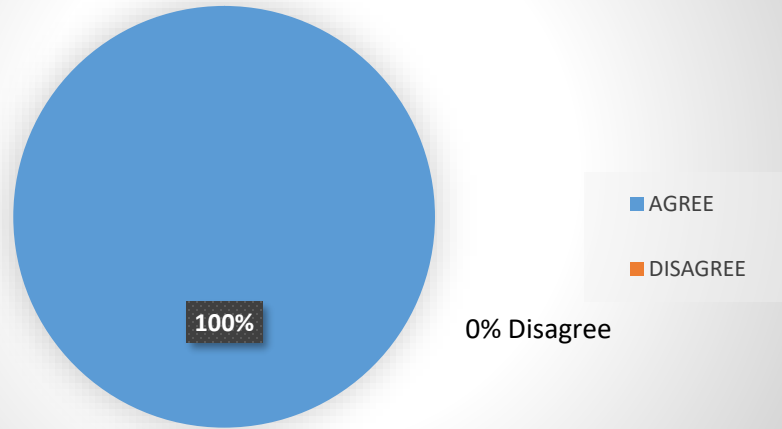
Adherence to the SCIP should be used to judge locality grant requests

AGREE

DISAGREE

100%

0% Disagree
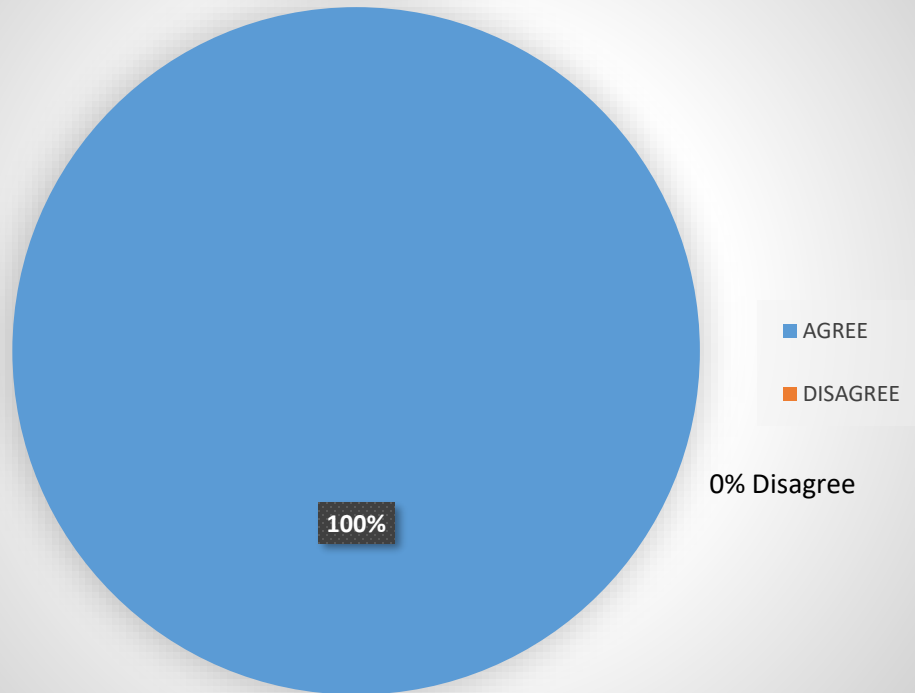
Comments

same grant comment as above

The National Emergency Communications Plan should be used as foundational guidance to develop the SCIP

100%

0% Disagree

AGREE
DISAGREE

- This helps our state and local funding requests resonate at the well.
- Its a good starting place and should be considered.
- Assuming currency, components of it should guide.